



# USAID | AFGHANISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **CALL FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCE PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE Agri-business Alliances for Afghanistan UNDER EXISTING ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT APS No: M/OAA/GRO/EGAS-07-063**

This program is authorized in accordance with Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance act of 1961 as amended.

USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Agriculture would like to make a special call for the submission of concept papers related to the Strategic Objective 5, *A Thriving Economy Led by the Private Sector*, **focusing on building a dynamic demand responsive Afghan agri-business sector. Specifically, alliances will help create a prosperous agri-business sector thru establishing strong public-private sector alliances and leveraging Afghan investment capital.**

Since 2002, USAID has been supporting the economic development of Afghanistan, which after over 30 years of conflict has stagnated and ceased to function in its ability to promote and sustain the daily needs of its citizenry. The vast majority of Afghans were living either abroad as refugees, internally displaced, or in rural areas where their livelihoods were based on marginal and subsistence agriculture. Where Afghanistan had once been a net-exporter of crops and sufficient in food security for its population, it now depends on periodic food aid and is a net importer of food goods. To date, progress in the redevelopment of the agriculture sector can be seen in increased productivity across crops and regions, the reconnection of Afghanistan to some of its former export markets, and the development of a nascent agri-business sector supplying inputs and processing raw goods for domestic consumption and export.

USAID/Afghanistan seeks to develop innovative alliances and investment opportunities that encompass larger scale agri-business enterprises, diversify the agriculture sector production and markets, promote enterprise development along entire value-chains, and increase the livelihoods of Afghan involved in the agriculture sector. Specifically, these alliances will:

- promote agri-industry cluster development;
- increase sales of single product lines along entire value chains;
- develop contract farming;
- create permanent and seasonal employment in agriculture related industries;
- develop new single agri-business enterprises or value chains; and/or
- expand current enterprises or activities to a larger scale raising both employment levels and total sales volume.

Proponents are encouraged to propose alliances that promote a holistic value-chain approach to agri-business development. This approach may be along single product lines or in the case of proposals for agri-industry cluster development, outline those types or related industries that will develop as a result of the investment in the lead activity.

Proponents are not limited to developing alliances in areas where the current OAG Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP) operates. Additionally, proponents may submit proposals for alliances that cover more than one geographic location and product line if the goal across locations and product lines are complimentary.

Alliances for \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 may be submitted for a three to five year period, subject to availability of funding.

Proposed alliances should be consistent with USAID legal and policy restrictions concerning trade and investment activities and agricultural activities included those set forth in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Chapter 225 (Trade and Investment Activities) and ADS Chapter 210 (Tobacco); in USAID agricultural policy determinations; and in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and annual appropriations acts (such as the "Bumpers Amendment" in Section 513(b) of the FY2006 Appropriations Act).

Projects that address the above core areas and the objectives outlined under SO 5 may be submitted under USAID's Annual Program Statement (APS) No. M/OAA/GRO/EGAS-07-063.

USAID/Afghanistan/OAG will be responsible for the proposal review process and management of the awards. Applicants are required to submit short concept papers to USAID/Afghanistan. Applicants will receive instructions on whether or not to proceed with a full proposal. USAID/Afghanistan/OAG will conduct a review of proposals at the end of each quarter during FY 2007. Proposals for consideration should be submitted by December 31, 2006, March 30, 2007, June 30, 2007, and September 30, 2007 in order to be considered.

For information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a concept paper, please refer to the 2007 Annual Program Statement posted by the USAID Global Development Alliance Secretariat. The APS can be found at the following website:  
[www.usaid.gov/gda](http://www.usaid.gov/gda).

Before submitting a concept paper we encourage applicants to speak with key technical staff involved in the USAID/Afghanistan agriculture program. These staff can inform you on whether or not your idea is appropriate to the country and aligned USAID/Afghanistan goals. For USAID/Afghanistan, the contact persons are Loren Stoddard, Director OAG, SO5 ([lstoddard@usaid.gov](mailto:lstoddard@usaid.gov)) and Randy Chester, Deputy Agriculture Officer, SO 5 ([rchester@usaid.gov](mailto:rchester@usaid.gov)).